

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 7, 2000 (BOS Mtg. 9/19/00)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Daniel M. Stuck, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Fort Eustis Boulevard Extension Alignments

BACKGROUND

As the Board is aware, at the May 16, 2000 meeting, a resolution was adopted expressing the Board's support for a preferred alignment for the extension of Fort Eustis Boulevard. The preferred alignment is exhibited as BD on the attached map. The Board's resolution supporting this alignment was part of the Location Public Hearing process conducted by the Virginia Department of Transportation. Unbeknownst to the staff, on May 10, 2000, Donnie Craft, the Regional Station Director, Yorktown Power Station, sent a letter to VDOT opposing any alignment of the Fort Eustis Boulevard extension that would cross the ash disposal facility. Alignments D and F cross the Yorktown Power Station's ash disposal facility and, according to Virginia Power, would significantly increase their ash disposal costs over time. A copy of a letter to me from Mr. Craft explaining this situation is attached.

After reevaluating this situation, staff has determined that the BC Alignment would be the best alternative for the needs of the County and its citizens based on this new information provided by Virginia Power. The BD Alignment was closely scrutinized by the Virginia Department of Transportation after Virginia Power raised their concerns in their May 10 letter. The BD Alignment would be significantly more expensive due to the elevation changes in traversing the fly ash pits and would require the relocation of either the active bottom ash cell or one of the on-site leachate ponds serving the Virginia Power facility. The BC Alignment still provides good access to the industrial property between Old York Hampton Highway and Goodwin Neck Road and only increases the amount of wetlands impacted by 1.3 acres. This information on the amount of wetlands impacted was provided by Fred Davis, VDOT's Senior Environmental Specialist, assigned to this project. We have already broached the subject of Virginia Power mitigating this situation by donating some existing wetlands in this area. While these negotiations have not been finalized, Virginia Power is willing to discuss this proposal. This alignment also provides a fairly direct route to Interstate 64 for Seaford residents while reducing the impact on residential properties (Allen Harris Drive). This proposed alignment still utilizes the B corridor as the first half of the extension, which was the clear preference of the citizens commenting at the Location Public Hearing held at York High School. The B Alignment orients the road the farthest from the homes on Allen Harris Drive in Settler's Crossing.

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Based on the information provided by Virginia Power, VDOT has delayed taking this matter to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for approval. If the Board is willing to endorse the BC Alignment, VDOT will submit it as the preferred alignment to the Commonwealth Transportation Board at the next available meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on this new information provided by Virginia Power, I believe that the best overall alignment for the extension of Fort Eustis Boulevard is Alignment BC. I recommend that the Board adopt proposed resolution no. R00-156 expressing its support for Alignment BC as its preferred alignment for the extension of Fort Eustis Boulevard. This resolution will indicate that the Board has changed its preference based on the new information provided by Virginia Power. Additionally, this resolution reiterates the Board's desire, as expressed in its adoption of the County's Interstate and Primary Roads Plan on February 2, 2000, that this roadway be designed to include a landscaped median.

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Attachments

- Map of alignment alternatives
- Letter from Donnie Craft, August 24, 2000
- Proposed Resolution No. R00-156